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# Corridor Discovery

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT PROGRESS ALONG THE S.C. HERITAGE CORRIDOR

## Corridor Board Convenes

As the South Carolina Heritage Corridor has evolved it has always been with the plan that the guidance provided by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) would at some point be passed to a non-profit board. In October, the first step towards that transition was made with an organizational meeting of the South Carolina Heritage Corridor Board of Directors. The Board is made up of 14 members selected by Gov. David Beasley. "The South Carolina Heritage Corridor is a top priority for this administration and the quality of this board shows our commitment to making the corridor one of the top tourism attractions in the Southeast," said Gov. Beasley.

Board members were given a brief overview of the history, funding, partnerships, commitments, and role of SCPRT by Curt Cottle, Director of Heritage Tourism Development. The Discovery Center Funding Request presentation was made by Buddy Jennings, Director of SCPRT. In addition, officers were elected and the articles of incorporation and by-laws were adopted. Bettis Rainsford was elected chairman. "I am confident Bettis will do a great job running the board," stated Gov. Beasley. The board will oversee the development of the Heritage Corridor and manage its budget. SCPRT will continue to support the

project but will eventually withdraw from direct oversight.

Following is a list of the board members appointed in each region:

Region 1 - John M. Geer, Jr., (vice-chair), regional district manager, Duke Power; Claude V. Marchbanks, management consultant; and Steve Tanner, chairperson, Region 1.

Region 2- Bettis C. Rainsford (chair), executive vice president and chief financial officer, Delta Woodside; Charles W. Pigg, vice president, Greenwood Development Corp.; and Miriam Patterson, chairperson, Region 2.

Region 3 - John Troutman (treasurer), president, Palmetto Federal Savings Bank of South Carolina; Dr. Carl Carpenter, executive vice president and dean, Vorhees College; Leta Burnett (secretary), chairperson, Region 3.

Region 4 - Charles H.P. Duell, president, Middleton Place Foundation; Lawrence Walker, chairperson, Region 4.

Representing state agencies on the board are Buddy Jennings, director SCPRT; Robert V. Royall, Jr., secretary, South Carolina Department of Commerce; and H.B. Limehouse, Chairman, South Carolina Department of Transportation.



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~ Governor Beasley

## Regional Interpretation Funding Request Submitted by SCPRT

Interpretation is a critical element in the development of the South Carolina Heritage Corridor. It will serve to weave together the diverse resources and varying themes, provide an educational context, and ensure that visitors can move smoothly through the four regions. Interpretation of the Heritage Corridor hinges on the Discovery Centers proposed in the master plan by Lane Frenchman & Associates.

The four Discovery Centers will serve as gateways into the regions by providing in-depth interpretation and visitor information. A range of interpretive exhibits and technology will be housed within the 3,200 square feet of exhibit space planned for each regional center.

The design and development of Discovery Stops comprises the second interpretive component of the corridor. Strategically located in existing facilities along the Discovery and Nature Routes of the corridor, these stops will spark a visitor's interest in the heritage of the area. In addition to

providing site-specific information, the Discovery Stops will encourage further exploration along the corridor's routes. Each county of the corridor will have approximately four designated Discovery Stops.

The estimated cost of four Discovery Centers and 42 Discovery Stops totals more than \$10 million. Each region will acquire and renovate their respective facilities for a total cost of about \$5 million. SCPRT will seek the remaining \$5 million for development of interpretative displays from the South Carolina legislature. The requested state funds, if awarded, will be distributed evenly between the four regional discovery centers with an allocation of \$1.16 million. The remaining \$326,000 will be used to produce 42 Discovery Stops. Supporters of the South Carolina Heritage Corridor can get involved by educating residents and legislators in their communities about the value of developing the corridor.



# Fort Hill: Preserving a National Landmark

*"It is my desire that the dwelling house on Fort Hill shall never be torn down or altered, but shall be kept in repair ... and shall always be open for the inspection of visitors."*

~ Thomas G. Clemson, 1886



In the center of Clemson University resides the national treasure Fort Hill, home of the 19th century statesman John C. Calhoun. Calhoun's piedmont plantation home was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1960. Today, because of subsequent deterioration, Fort Hill is listed as a Priority 1 Endangered Landmark in need of restoration.

Calhoun's son-in-law and Clemson University's founder, Thomas G. Clemson stated in his will of 1886, "It is my desire that the dwelling house on Fort Hill shall never be torn down or altered, but shall be kept in repair... and shall always be open for the inspection of visitors."

In an effort to preserve the historic site and fulfill the wishes its founder, Clemson University initiated preservation documentation of Fort Hill in the summer of 1997. A seven-person Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) program team undertook a 12-week project to provide baseline

architectural documentation of the landmark complex. The project was sponsored by Clemson University's "Class of 1947" and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Building on the HABS documentation program, Glemson initiated a preservation program funded by \$1.2 million in assistance from the South Carolina General Assembly. Beginning this spring, scaffolding will adorn Fort Hill as the tedious process of removing two centuries of lead paint begins. The house will then be repainted with donations from Benjamin Moore Corp. and the Bird Paint Co. of Charleston. Following the exterior and structural restoration, a second phase will address the interior. Phase two first will address mechanical systems such as climate control and fire suppression, and then will move to restoration of rooms and conservation of artifacts. The project is scheduled for completion in fall 1999.

## Stop Where the Parking Lot is *Full*

Have you heard that people "travel on their stomach?" Most of us want to know where to eat when we visit a community, don't we? The most sought after details in travel information is where to eat and what's the specialty of the house.

Tasting local foods is one way visitors can sample our culture. Many of our communities boast wonderful indigenous foods that may be unfamiliar to our visitors... grits, cornbread, different styles of barbecue, deep-fried turkey, Frogmore stew, Mennonite baked goods. The list could go on and on. Also, do you know a restaurant with great atmosphere. One, say, that's located in an old train station, a barn or a historic home? One that's filled with local memorabilia or has great views of a river, mountain or lake?

Some of our visitors may be too shy to walk up to a resident to ask about the best local place to eat, so we ask your cooperation in making this search

easier for them. We invite you to recommend local eating establishments and tell us which particular dish you feel is its specialty. Please send us a copy of the menu with your favorite item marked. From your nominations we will create a list of "Locally Recommended Restaurants."

As you make recommendations, please keep these guidelines in mind: Is the restaurant locally owned? One of a kind? What is the specialty? Does it feature indigenous foods? Is the building of historic significance or interesting? Does it have unusual decor or a great view?

Please recommend a unique dining experience in a South Carolina Heritage Corridor community! We want your input. Respond in writing by March 31, 1998, to Carole Mullis, SCPRT, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29201, FAX (803)734-0670 or e-mail [cmullis@prt.state.sc.us](mailto:cmullis@prt.state.sc.us).





## BIRDING TAKES FLIGHT

An estimated 65 million Americans, nearly one in four, watch and feed birds which makes birding one of the most popular recreational activities in the United States. The number of bird enthusiasts is expected to grow in the coming years, lending increased support for habitat conservation and educational programs which support this popular pastime. In addition to being a popular activity, birding has a positive economic impact throughout this country. Bird watchers spent an estimated \$5.2 billion on goods and related services in the United States in 1991, compared to an estimated \$5.8 billion in movie ticket sales.

Although South Carolina is small in size, it boasts more than 375 species of birds and 41 percent of all bird species found in North America. With mountain peaks and sea islands, the South Carolina Heritage Corridor contains a diverse collection of birdlife that is unmatched by many of the larger Atlantic states. These beautiful natural areas provide habitats for a range of avian species including the wood stork, Bachman's sparrow, Swainson's warbler, swallow-tailed kite, brown pelican, red-cockaded woodpecker, painted bunting and other remarkable species.

To help birders make the most of their time along the South Corridor Heritage Corridor, a free birding guide has been developed by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the U.S. Forest Service. This guide, *Birding in the South Carolina Heritage Corridor*, is the first in a series of discovery guides that will be developed over the next few years for visitors along the Heritage Corridor.

An expert team of birding enthusiasts from around the state participated in the development of this guide which provides information on the best birding sites along the Heritage Corridor and local service providers (bed and breakfasts, inns, cabins, campgrounds, vendors, tours and guiding services). Look for this free guide in local visitor centers, state parks, South Carolina Welcome Centers or call the Office of Heritage Tourism Development at (803) 734-0141 to request a copy.

## Heritage Conference Set for Charleston

The Second Annual Southeast Regional Heritage Tourism Conference is scheduled for June 30 to July 3, 1998, at the Charleston Place Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina.

The purpose of the conference is to promote heritage tourism in the Southeast through cooperative initiatives and education, skills development and networking opportunities.

The South Carolina Heritage Corridor, SCPRT and its private-industry partners are hosting the conference. It is expected to draw more than 400 tourism professionals from the Southeast. For information on registration and sponsorship opportunities, please call (803) 734-0122.

## Opportunities Resource Ideas...

### Small Businesses and Economic Development

When visitors experience the South Carolina Heritage Corridor, they leave with a greater appreciation of South Carolina's history, culture, and natural beauty. They show their appreciation by leaving thank you notes everywhere they go. These notes are not hand written on stationery, they are printed by the United States Treasury, and look great in cash registers.

One of the main goals of the Heritage Corridor is to stimulate the economic development of heritage communities. Over the next several years, many visitors and dollars will flow through the Corridor. As a result, heritage communities will benefit from new business opportunities and new jobs. The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) offers technical assistance to communities and individuals to help maximize the benefits of tourism.

SCPRT's Heritage Tourism Development Office has offered small business development assistance since May. Through this office, established and prospective business owners receive help with the many challenges small businesses encounter. The office's capabilities include business planning, loan packaging, financial analysis, market research assistance, assistance with marketing ideas, and fielding special requests.

Another way SCPRT assists the small business community is by providing business workshops. Workshops can include basic business management topics or topics that are specific to tourism-related businesses. Tourism specific topics include: managing cash flow for seasonal businesses, packaging services with other service providers and regulations affecting tourism. These workshops serve the needs of the small business community, so suggestions and requests for workshop sessions are welcome.

The Heritage Tourism Development Office is eager to make the South Carolina Heritage Corridor a financial success. For questions regarding business assistance or to suggest a workshop topic, please contact Matt Scarborough at (803) 734-1664.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### January

Grand American Coon Hunt, Orangeburg	2-3
The Enduring Women of Redcliffe & SC Redcliffe State Historic Site	10
Early Birders Breakfast, Santee State Park	17
Voyage to the New World, Charles Towne Landing	17
Winter Bird Count, Table Rock State Park	17
Aiken Camellia Show	17-18
Lowcountry Oyster Festival, Mt. Pleasant	18
Cruising the Coastal Plains, Santee State Park	18-23
Chili Cook Off, Belmont Inn, Abbeville	TBA

### February

Historic Bed & Breakfast Tour, Charleston	1
Battle of Rivers Bridge, Ehrhardt	7-8
Camellia Walks, Middleton Place, Charleston	7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 28
Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, Charleston	13-15
Discovering Your Family's Past, Redcliffe State Historic Site	21
Battle of Aiken, Aiken	21-22
Black History Program, Colleton Memorial Library	TBA

### March

Handmade, SC Artisans Center, Walterboro	7, 14, 21
Celebration Gospel Ensemble, Colleton	13
Thoroughbred Trials, Aiken	14
Festival of Houses & Gardens, Charleston	19-April 18
Steeplechase & Hunt Meet, Aiken	21
Weekend Nature Walks, Charleston	21, 28
Flowertown Festival, Summerville	27-29
Edisto Indian Cultural Festival, Summerville	27-29
Harness Races, Aiken	28
African American Experience Festival, Redcliffe State Historic Site	28
Turkey Calling Contest, Wild Turkey Federation, Edgefield	TBA

### April

Children's Art Festival, Aiken	1-30
Dogwood Festival, Denmark	3-4
Flowertown Festival, Summerville	3-5
Cooper River Bridge Run, Charleston	4
Peach Blossom Festival, Johnston	4
French & Indian War, Ninety Six National Historic Site	4-5
Pendleton Spring Jubilee	4-5
Lowcountry Cajun Festival, Charleston	5
Charleston House & Garden Tours	4, 11
Handmade, SC Artisans Center, Walterboro	4, 11, 18, 25
Governor's Frog Jump & Egg Striking Contest, Springfield	10-12
Gospel Fest '98, Charleston	12
Clemson Spring Festival	Mid-April
Abbeville Herb Days	16-17
World Grits Festival, St. George	17-19
Colleton County Rice Festival	24-26
SC Festival of Roses, Orangeburg	24-26
Blessing of the Fleet & Seafood Festival, Mt. Pleasant	26



## REGION 2 IN THE SPOTLIGHT



*The Joanne T. Rainsford  
Heritage Center*

**Joanne  
Tisdale  
Rainsford**  
(1949-1997)

In June of 1997, the South Carolina Heritage Corridor lost one of its most valuable volunteers -- Joanne Rainsford. A driving force behind the creation of the Heritage Corridor, Joanne was instrumental in the creation, growth, and national designation of the corridor. With her never-ending energy, she sought to help people understand the importance of the natural, cultural and historic resources present in our rural communities.

Over the past six years, Joanne's corridor-related activities included serving as the Region 2 chairperson, Edgefield County chairperson, and Edgefield County Historical Society president.

In Joanne's memory, SCPRT adopted a resolution issued by the Edgefield County Historical Society naming the Region 2 Discovery Center the "Joanne T. Rainsford Heritage Center." The center will serve as a reminder of Joanne's dedication and love for the people of Edgefield, the Heritage Corridor, and South Carolina.

HIGHLIGHTING  
SC REGIONS ONE  
AT A TIME

# Heritage Corridor

## REGIONAL UPDATE

### **Region 1: Anderson, Oconee, Pickens (864) 656-7488**

- The sound of music has been heard throughout Region 1. The Pickens County Heritage Day Festival in August featured an old time fiddlin' convention, Keese Day Festival in October featured jazz and the harmonica playing and storytelling of J.D. Benson. Idlewild, a music festival held at the South Carolina Botanical Gardens in September, focused on acoustical pre-bluegrass, Celtic, gospel, and bagpipes, while a community workshop in shape note singing was held in October at the Generostee Baptist Church in Starr.
- The Heritage Tourism Development Office and Region 1 sponsored the opening reception at the South Carolina Nature Based Tourism Association's annual meeting at the South Carolina Botanical Garden in November. The reception featured the resources of the Upper Piedmont, including such foods as Carolina trout pate, Bruchetta with Split Creek Farm goat cheese, Oconee apple tarts, and Clemson grapes rolled in Clemson blue cheese. Centerpieces were designed by kudzu paper artist Nancy Basket, potter Rob Gentry, and Pamela Rowland, AIFD. Traditional bluegrass music was provided by Nick Hallman and the Nickpickers and the evening featured tours of the Botanical Gardens and a behind the scenes look at the Wren House: A Southern Living Showcase Home under construction.
- The Old Maxwell Cemetery in Oconee County was re-dedicated in November. "There are few if any rivals in South Carolina for an African American cemetery of the late 19th century in such good condition," according to historian W.J. Megginson. For more information, contact Pat Pritchard at (864) 647-4311.
- The citizens of Pickens and Pendleton, with technical assistance from the South Carolina Downtown Development Association, have completed assessments of their communities. They have evaluated their assets and liabilities, envisioned what their communities could be like in 10 years, and developed strategies for realizing their vision.
- Scenic highway management plans for the

Cherokee Scenic Highway 11 and the Savannah River Scenic Highway are completed and applications for National By-way designation have been submitted.

### **Region 2: Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, McCormick (864) 459-4600**

- Greenwood hosted the South Carolina Humanities Festival in September at Lander College. This statewide meeting featured several important lectures and excellent entertainment by the Hallelujah Singers from Beaufort.
- The Region 2 Board in September was treated to an advance tour of the Wild Turkey Federation Museum. The facility is scheduled to open by summer. It will quickly become a "must see" when visiting Edgefield. In addition, the Edgefield Inn, a much needed hotel south of town, has opened, and The Peach restaurant has reopened under new management.
- The McGowan Barksdale House in Abbeville is sporting a new coat of paint. The authentic colors have changed the house into a 19th century showplace. The house is scheduled to open to the public this spring.
- The MECCA Trails group has been meeting in McCormick to develop a system of trails in the Sumter National Forest for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.

### **Region 3: Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Orangeburg (803) 284-2800**

- The town of Holly Hill recently opened its renovated depot. The depot, which was rehabilitated through grant funding and private donations, will hold Tri-County Chamber of Commerce offices, a town museum, and meeting space.
- Butterfly gardens have been dedicated by garden clubs throughout Region 3, including the towns of Williston, Blackville (Healing Springs) and Denmark. These gardens were made possible through grant funding from the South Carolina Garden Club Association.
- Olde Town Preservation Association of North Augusta's Colonial Trade Fair and Militia Muster was held in mid-October. The annual event continues to grow and attract more visitors. The

event attracted a German film crew, producing a documentary on the Revolutionary War era.

- The Shamrock Hotel Project in Blackville has received a \$19,000 stabilization grant from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Ray Miller, leader of the project and President of Historic Business Ventures, Inc., hopes to include both overnight accommodations and retail space in the restored 1901 hotel.

### **Region 4: Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester (803) 853-8000 ext. 3105**

- The Public Relations committee has produced Region 4's first quarterly newsletter. Each issue will suggest day trips to charming rural places in Colleton, Charleston and Dorchester counties. To request a copy, please call the Region 4 number listed above.
- The Charles Pinckney National Historic Site honored Constitution Day in September with a ceremony at which 100 people were naturalized as U.S. citizens. College of Charleston President Alex Sanders addressed the audience of more than 300. For more information on next year's event contact Mike Allen at (803) 881-5516.
- The South Carolina Historical Society's Annual Tour, held in late October, focused on private homes in Walterboro and the surrounding plantations in Colleton County. More than 400 people attended and supported the Walterboro-Colleton County Historical Preservation Society's efforts to restore the Bedon-Lucas House in Walterboro. For more information on the project, call the Historical Society (803) 723-3225 or the Bedon-Lucas House at (803) 549-1930.
- South Carolina's connection to Barbados was honored in November at the official launching of the South Carolina Heritage Corridor in Speightstown, Barbados. This week-long cultural celebration and educational symposium focused on the role Barbados and the Caribbean played in the settlement of the Carolinas and the island's impact on Lowcountry culture. The celebration was preceded by a reception in Charleston, hosted by the Mills House Hotel for the Heritage Corridor and the Carolina Caribbean Association. For more information on the Caribbean connection contact Rhoda Green at (803) 740-5781.



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